In the Claims

Please amend claims 5, 12 and 15 without prejudice as follows:

1. (Previously presented) A thermoplastic elastomer composition comprising crosslinked polyvinylbutyral and a thermoplastic polymer, wherein the thermoplastic polymer is a continuous phase of the thermoplastic elastomer composition and wherein the crosslinked polyvinylbutyral is dispersed as a discrete phase in the continuous phase of the thermoplastic elastomer composition.

2. (Previously presented) The composition of Claim 1 wherein the crosslinked polyvinylbutyral is present in an amount of from about 25 wt% to about 95 wt%, based on the total weight of the thermoplastic elastomer composition.

3. (Previously presented) The composition of Claim 2 wherein the crosslinked polyvinylbutyral is present in an amount of from about 50 wt% to about 90 wt%, based on the total weight of the thermoplastic elastomer composition.

4. (Previously presented) The composition of Claim 3 wherein the crosslinked polyvinylbutyral is present in an amount of from about 75 wt% to about 90 wt%, based on the total weight of the thermoplastic elastomer composition.

5. (Currently amended) The composition of Claim 1 wherein crosslinked polyvinylbutyral is the product of the crosslinking reaction between a modified polyvinylbutyral that is prepared by heating a polyvinyl butyral in the presence od a modifying agent having hydroxyl-reactive groups and one or more crosslinking agents selected from the group consisting of: polycarboxylic acids or functional equivalents thereof; diisocyanates; and diisocyanate oligomers.

6. (Previously presented) The composition of Claim 1 wherein the continuous phase comprises at least one thermoplastic polymer selected from the group consisting of: polypropylenes; polyethylenes; polyvinylchlorides; polystyrenes; polyamides; polycarbonates; poly(acrylic acid); polyacrylates; poly(methy

methacrylates); styrenic copolymers; polyvinylidene chlorides; polyesters; polyacetals; copolyesters; and polysulfones.

7. (Previously presented) The composition of Claim 6 wherein the continuous phase comprises polypropylene or polyvinylchloride.

8. (Previously presented) The composition Claim 7 wherein the continuous phase comprises polypropylene.

9. (Previously presented) The composition of Claim 1 wherein the thermoplastic polymer is present in an amount of from about 75 wt% to about 5 wt%, based on the total weight of the thermoplastic elastomer composition.

10. (Previously presented) The composition of Claim 9 wherein the thermoplastic polymer is present in an amount of from about 50 wt% to about 10 wt%, based on the total weight of the thermoplastic elastomer composition.

11. (Previously presented) The composition of Claim 10 wherein the thermoplastic polymer is present in an amount of from about 25 wt% to about 10 wt%, based on the total weight of the thermoplastic elastomer composition.

12. (Currently amended) A process for preparing a thermoplastic elastomer composition comprising the step of using a crosslinking agent in a crosslinking reaction to crosslink a modified ~~non-blocking~~ polyvinylbutyral composition in the presence of a thermoplastic polymer to form crosslinked polyvinylbutyral, wherein the thermoplastic polymer is a continuous phase of the thermoplastic elastomer composition and wherein the crosslinked polyvinylbutyral is dispersed as a discrete phase in the continuous phase of the thermoplastic elastomer composition.

13. (Previously presented) The process of Claim 12 wherein the crosslinking agent is selected from the group consisting of: polycarboxylic acids or functional equivalents thereof; diisocyanates; and diisocyanate oligomers.

14. (Original) The process of Claim 13 wherein a catalyst is used to catalyze the crosslinking reaction.

15. (Currently amended) A process for preparing a thermoplastic elastomer composition comprising the steps of: (1) combining polyvinylbutyral, a thermoplastic polymer, and a polyvinylbutyral modifying agent; (2) modifying the polyvinylbutyral in the presence of the thermoplastic polymer to form a modified ~~non-blocking~~ polyvinylbutyral /thermoplastic polymer mixture and (3) using a crosslinking agent to crosslink the modified non-blocking polyvinylbutyral /thermoplastic polymer composition to form crosslinked polyvinylbutyral, wherein the thermoplastic polymer is a continuous phase of the thermoplastic elastomer composition and wherein the crosslinked polyvinylbutyral is dispersed as a discrete phase in the continuous phase of the thermoplastic elastomer composition.

16. (Previously presented) An elastomeric crosslinked polyvinylbutyral composition obtained by the process of claim 12.

17. (Previously presented) An article prepared from the thermoplastic elastomer composition of Claim 1.

18. (Previously presented) The article of Claim 17 wherein the article is a hose, a tube liner, a seal, a sheet, a belt, a wire and cable jacket, a wheel, a shoe sole, a film, or a grip.

19. (Previously presented) An elastomeric crosslinked polyvinylbutyral composition obtained by the process of claim 15.